

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are amended herein.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thessin et al. ("Thessin;" US 5,452,299) in view of Flagg (US 6,445,378). Applicant has reviewed the cited references and respectfully submits that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-28 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Thessin and Flagg, alone or in combination.

Applicant respectfully agrees with the Examiner's statement in the instant Office Action that Thessin does not disclose a user interface with flexible layers such that the movement of one or more the layers causes the display to change.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Thessin does not show or suggest a computer system comprising a "user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack, wherein along another edge of said stack said layers are separable from each other" as recited in independent Claim 1. Applicant also respectfully submits that Thessin does not show or suggest a method that comprises "detecting movement of one or more flexible layers of a user interface, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an external edge of a stack, wherein along another external edge of said stack said layers are separable from each

other" as recited in independent Claim 11. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Thessin does not show or suggest a portable computer system comprising "a housing ... and a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to said housing" as recited in independent Claim 21.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Flagg does not overcome the shortcomings of Thessin. With respect to independent Claims 1 and 11, Applicant respectfully submits that Flagg, alone or in combination with Thessin, neither shows nor suggests a computer system comprising a "user interface comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an edge in a stack, wherein along another edge of said stack said layers are separable from each other," nor does Flagg, alone or in combination with Thessin, show or suggest a method that comprises "detecting movement of one or more flexible layers of a user interface, wherein said user interface comprises a plurality of flexible layers of material coupled along an external edge of a stack, wherein along another external edge of said stack said layers are separable from each other." For example, Flagg specifically states that the layers 100, 102 and 104 are bonded or connected together (column 6, line 34).

With respect to independent Claim 21, Flagg (alone or in combination with Thessin) does not show or suggest "a housing ... and a user interface ... comprising a plurality of flexible layers of material in a stack coupled to said housing." The mouse pad of Flagg is coupled by a cable to the circuitry

of a computer system; however, there is no showing or suggestion in Flagg that the mouse pad is coupled to the housing of the computer system.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejecting Claims 1, 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, and that Claims 1, 11 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 are dependent on Claim 1; Claims 12-20 are dependent on Claim 11; and Claims 22-28 are dependent on Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejecting Claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-28 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these Claims.


Applicant has reviewed the references that were cited but not relied upon. Applicant did not find these references to show or suggest the present claimed invention: US 6,476,831 and US 6,351,657.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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